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### HEG84-198 Short Cut Tailoring Techniques: *Under and Uppercollar Units*

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## Short Cut Tailoring Techniques *Under and Uppercollar Units*

This NebGuide describes methods for shaping and attaching the under and uppercollar units to facilitate achieving a professional tailored look.

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*Rose Marie Tondl Extension Specialist -- Clothing and Textiles*

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Tailoring is the process of using sewing and pressing techniques to mold and build shape into the garment fabric, define the garment edges and reduce bulk. Tailoring no longer means hours of hand sewing and pad stitching. Today, fusible interfacings and the use of the sewing machine can give similar results formerly obtained only through endless patience and determination.

Tailoring is easier today because pattern styles, fashions, fabrics and sewing products have changed all for the better. A source of satisfaction is gained by tailoring your own garment and knowing you have saved a great deal of money.

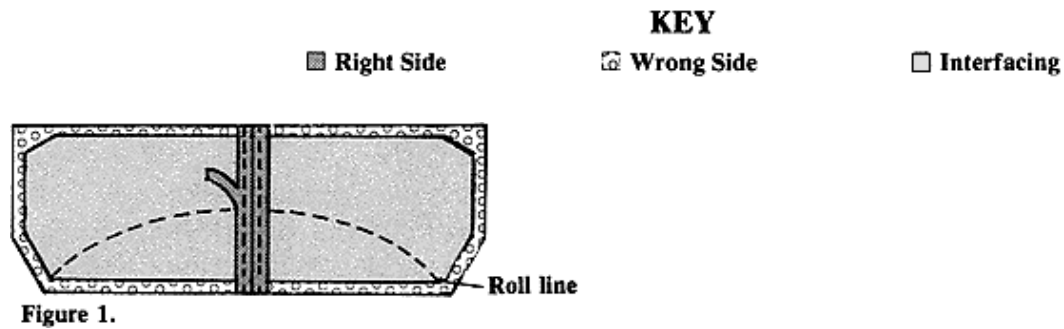
### Shaping the Undercollar

You can use one of two methods to speed the tailoring process. One is fusible tailoring and the other is machine tailoring. Slightly different appearances and results are achieved with each method. For more information see *EC81-402, Shaping a Tailored Garment*.

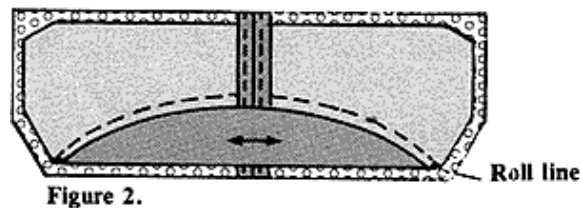
#### Fusible Method

Trim seam allowances and cut corners diagonally by 1/2 inch so that only 1/8 inch of the fusible interfacing will be sewn in the seam. For a fusible interfacing with one way stretch, the center back of the undercollar should be on the lengthwise grain for flexibility around the neck. If using a woven fusible, cut the interfacing on the bias.

Fuse the interfacing to each half of the undercollar. Stitch the center back seam, press and top stitch the seam. Trim to 1/4 inch. Mark the roll line (*Figure 1*).



To create a roll and give support to the collar stand, cut an additional piece of interfacing the shape of the stand. Trim 1/8 inch inside the roll line so the collar rolls on the line. Fuse in place over the center back seam allowance (*Figure 2*).

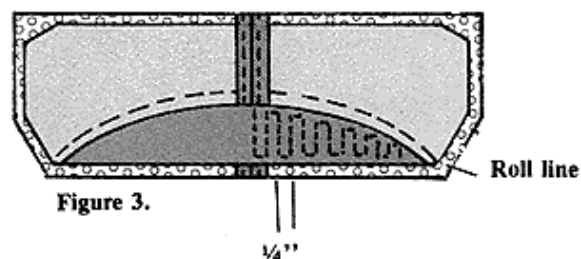


Pin the undercollar along the roll line to a tailor's ham. Steam in shape. Do not remove until totally dry.

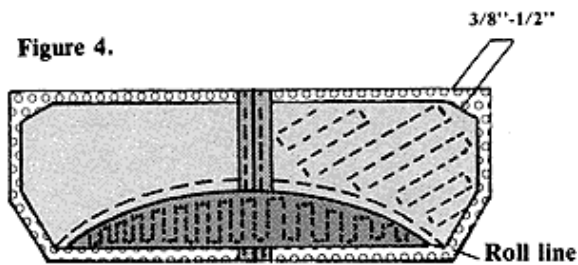
### Machine Tailoring Method

Place the interfacing over the wrong side of the undercollar. Machine stitch right on the marked roll line through the interfacing and fashion fabric. Start and stop 5/8 inch from the edge.

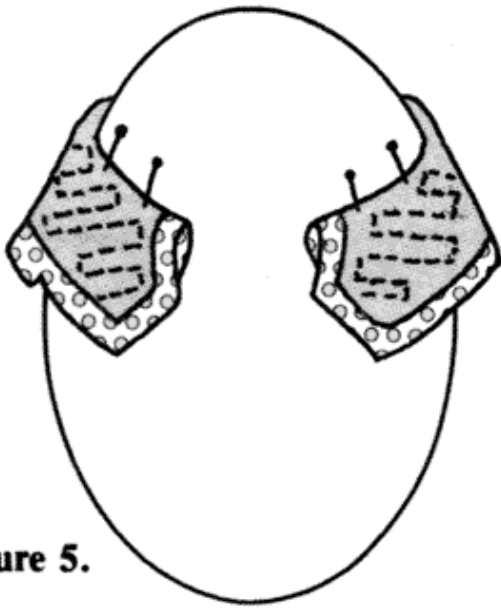
To put shape into the collar stand, machine stitch in the stand area, stitching in an up-and-down direction on the interfacing. Begin at the center back moving to the right end; then do the left end in the same manner. Make the rows of stitches 1/4 inch apart. Do not stitch beyond the roll line or into the 5/8 inch seam allowance (*Figure 3*).



To stitch the fall of the undercollar, start at the center back roll line and stitch diagonally, following the grainline of the fashion fabric. Stitch the lines 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch apart in the same pattern as the stand (*Figure 4*).



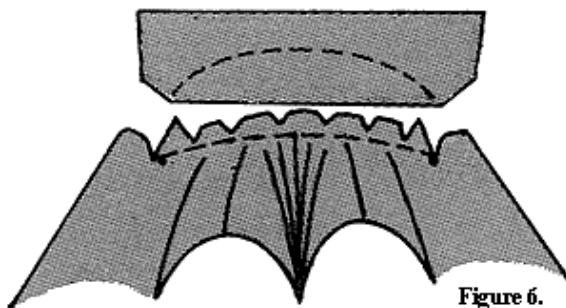
Shape the undercollar by folding it along the roll line and pin around a tailor's ham. Since the undercollar is on the bias, it will mold to form the neck curve. Steam the undercollar without pressing a crease into the roll line. Allow to dry before removing (*Figure 5*).



**Figure 5.**

### Attaching the Undercollar to the Garment

Stay-stitch the garment neckline 1/2 inch from the edge (*Figure 6*). With right sides together, pin the undercollar to the garment matching notches, large and small circles and center back. Clip into the seam allowance of the garment neck edge as necessary to get the undercollar to fit. Stitch from the center back to the center front circle. Stitch the other half in the same manner. Trim the seam allowance to 3/8 inch (*Figure 7*). Press the neckline seam open, using the ham.



**Figure 6.**

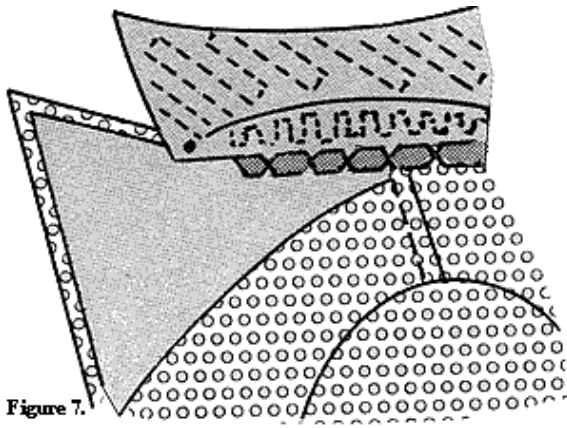


Figure 7.

### Attaching the Uppercollar to Facing

Accuracy is important when joining the uppercollar to the facings. Matching notches, stitch the back neck facing to the front facings at the shoulder seams. Press the seams open. Stay-stitch the neckline 1/2 inch from the edge. With right sides together, pin the uppercollar to the neck edge of the facings, matching notches and large and small circles. Clip the neck edge where necessary to make the collar fit. Stitch from the center back to the center front dot on each side. It is easier to be accurate if stitched this way. Trim seam allowances to 3/8 inch. Press the seam open, clipping as necessary (*Figure 8*).

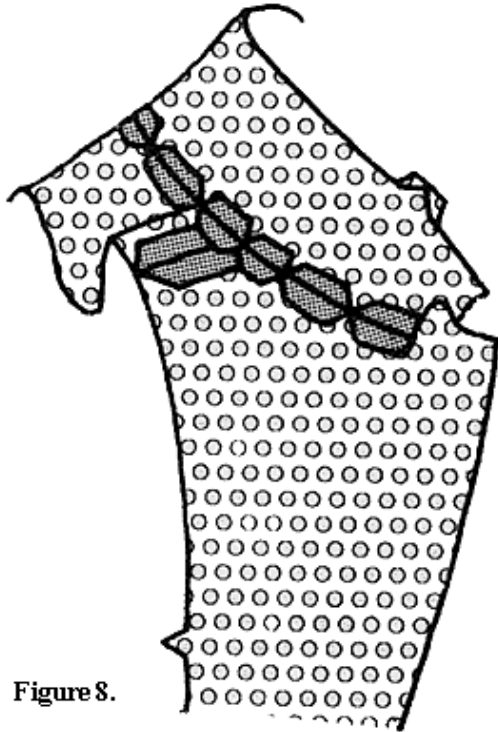


Figure 8.

### Attaching the Uppercollar/Facing Unit to the Undercollar/Garment Unit

With right sides together, pin the uppercollar/facing unit to the undercollar/garment unit. Match notches and dot markings exactly and any other construction points noted on the pattern. Make a "Tailor's Blister" in the lapel facing which has been cut larger to allow for "turn of cloth." Pin a small tuck about 1/2 inch from the point. Remove this pin after stitching the outer seams (*Figure 9*).

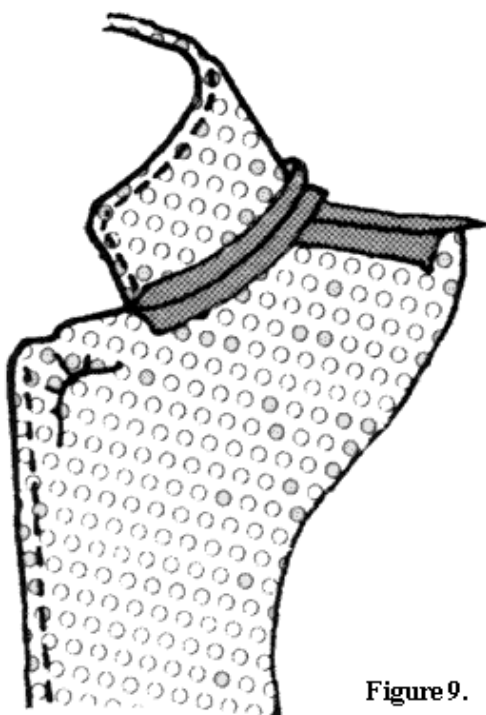


Figure 9.

Beginning at the lower hem edge, stitch each front facing to the garment. When turning the lapel corners, use 20 stitches per inch and take 2 or 3 diagonal stitches across the point of the lapel to give a sharper corner when turned and a more secure point. Stitch to the point where the neckline seam of the facing ends. Secure stitching at this point (*Figure 10*). Stitch from the center back of the collar just to the dot on the neckline seam, easing the uppercollar to the undercollar. Use 20 stitches per inch around collar corners and take 2 or 3 diagonal stitches across the point of the collar (*Figure 11*). Remember, it is necessary to end the stitching just to the dots. This allows a small pin hole to form so the notch will turn better. The neckline seam allowance should remain free and not be caught in the stitching.

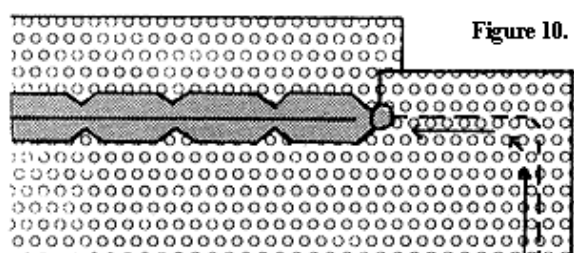


Figure 10.

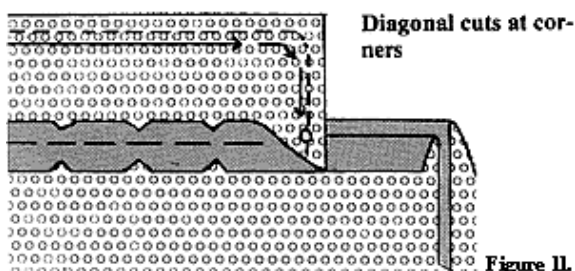


Figure 11.

Turn the facing right side out to check the accuracy of the stitching (*Figure 12*). The top edge of the lapel should look as if it is a continuous part of the neckline seam. The collar should be at a direct angle from this seam. If seamlines do not meet perfectly or there are any gaps on the outside, restitch the seams to meet. Check collar points so the left and right sides are identical.

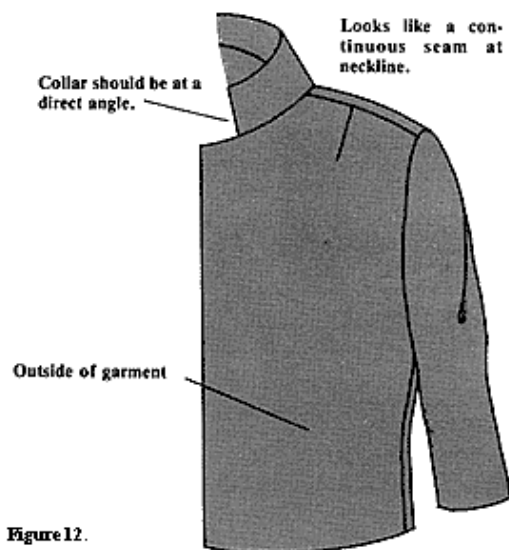


Figure 12.

### Reducing Bulk in Collar and Lapel Area

Before trimming the seam allowance, press it open over a point presser to assure a sharp edge is formed when pressed together afterward. Diagonally trim across collar and lapel points to help give them a sharper edge when turned. If interfacing has been stitched into the seam, trim it as close to the seam as possible. When grading seam allowances, the seam allowance closest to the outside of the garment should be the widest, and the seam allowance closest to your body the narrowest. Grading gives a flatter edge and helps prevent seam imprints after pressing.

At the lapel, grade seam allowances so that the facing seam allowance is the widest -- about 3/8 inch. At the point where the lapel turns back and the facing becomes the right side of the garment, clip into the seam and reverse the grading so that the garment seam allowance is the widest. The widest seam allowance will be against the right side of the garment and prevent a ridge from showing after the garment is pressed (*Figure 13*).

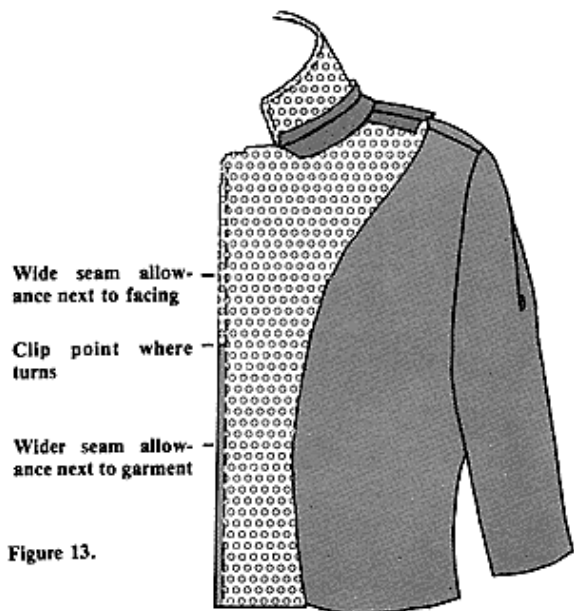
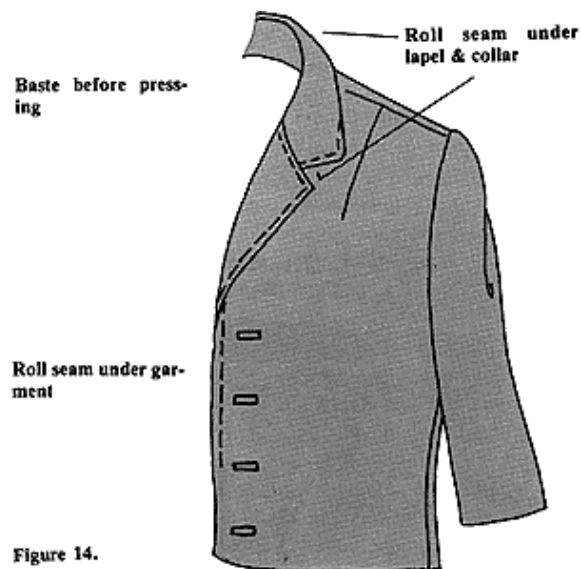


Figure 13.

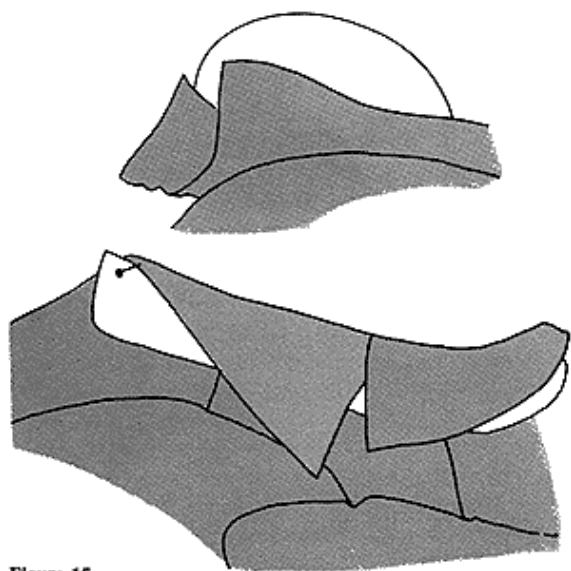
Press seams to one side. Those in the lapel area will be pressed toward the garment, the portion below the turn

of the lapel will be pressed toward the facing.

### Complete Work on the Facing



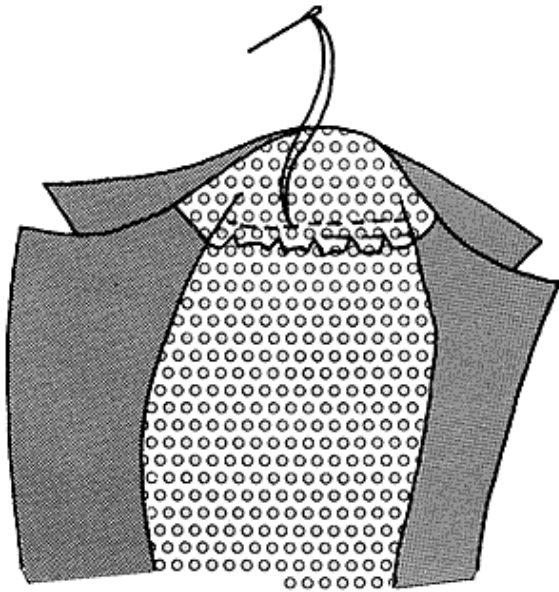
Turn the facing to the inside of the garment. Ease out the corners of the collar and lapels. Slightly roll the seamline where the facing joins the garment so it will not show on the right side (*Figure 14*). Reverse direction at the lower edge of the roll line to turn the seam toward the facing. Tailor baste the facing edges for pressing to within 6 inches of the lower edge. Steam press on the underside. Top press using a press cloth and a pounding block to achieve sharp lapels and collar points. Use a ham or rolled up towel to maintain lapel and collar roll lines when pressing. Do not press a crease along the poll line of the lapel (*Figure 15*).



Try on the garment to reestablish the roll line of the collar. Fit the uppercollar over the shaped undercollar. Bulky fabrics or the machine stitching on the undercollar may prevent the neck seams from matching. Preserve the collar roll rather than trying to make the seam lines meet exactly. Turn back the facing and sew block to achieve sharp lapels and collar points. Use a ham or a rolled up towel to maintain lapel and collar roll lines when pressing. Do not press a crease along the roll line of the lapel neck seam allowances of the upper and undercollar wherever they fall in the seam allowance by hand with a loose running stitch or by machine



(Figure 16).



**Figure 16.**

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***File HEG198 under: TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND DESIGN***

***C-22, Construction***

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